

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION
CRIMINAL CASE NO. 1:19-cr-00104-MR-WCM-1**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) **O R D E R**
)
MICHAEL McCRAY SYKES,)
)
Defendant.)
)

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the Defendant's letter, which the Court construes as a motion for transcripts at the Government's expense [Doc. 84].

The Defendant requests copies of his sentencing and Rule 11 hearing transcripts. [Doc. 84 at 1]. For grounds, the Defendant states that he is in the process of preparing a motion for relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and a motion for compassionate release. [Id.].

The Defendant has failed to demonstrate a particularized need for the requested documents. See United States v. MacCollom, 426 U.S. 317, 326-27 (1976) (holding that federal inmates are not entitled to transcripts at Government expense absent some showing of a particularized need); Jones v. Superintendent, Va. State Farm, 460 F.2d 150, 152 (4th Cir. 1972) ("[A]n

indigent is not entitled to a transcript at government expense without a showing of the need, merely to comb the record in the hope of discovering some flaw.") (citation omitted). Having failed to demonstrate a particularized need for the requested documents, the Defendant's motion must be denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the Defendant's letter, which the Court construes as a motion for transcripts at the Government's expense [Doc. 84], is **DENIED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed: September 20, 2021



Martin Reidinger
Chief United States District Judge

